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| 09/835,194      | 04/13/2001  | Shigetugu Okamoto    | 55807 (70904)       | 5343             |

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EXAMINER

SHAPIRO, LEONID

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2673

DATE MAILED: 06/25/2003

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/835,194

Applicant(s)

OKAMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Leonid Shapiro

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 May 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-16, 18-38 and 40-61 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-16, 18-38 and 40-61 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-6, 9, 11-12, 14-15, 22-28, 30-33, 35, 37, 42-48, 50-53, 55-59, 61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (US 5,546,134) in view of Tadashi (JP No. 06-006820).

As to claim 1,12,33,53 Lee teaches an image reproducing method for reproducing an image by a display apparatus having a plurality of pixels based on a picture signal including a pixel signal representing information of each pixel, comprising the steps of: performing an operation to obtain an average signal level which is an average level of all the pixel signals (See Fig. 5, items 20,10, in description See Col. 4, Lines 67-68 and Col.5, Lines 1-11), then, setting an input signal - output brightness property which represents variations in brightness of a pixel with respect to the level of a pixel signal in accordance with the average signal level (See Fig. 3, items y1,y2, in description See Col. 3, Lines 29-35); and reproducing an image so as to satisfy the input signal - output brightness property thus set (See Fig.4. items a, b, c, in description See Col.4, Lines 4-65).

Lee does not show maximum output brightness of a pixel of the display apparatus varies in accordance with the average signal level.

Tadashi teaches to use different correction memories in accordance with average signal level (See Drawings 1-3, items 12,14,16,30,32,34,40,44, in Detail Description See from page 3,

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paragraph 0016 to page 4, paragraph 0021). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in the time of invention to use Tadashi approach in the Lee method to reproduce the image so that maximum output brightness of a pixel of the display apparatus varies in accordance with the average signal level in order to improve the contrast of a display picture on a liquid crystal display device by implementing white level expansion and black level expansion corresponding respectively to a high APL and a low APL (See PURPOSE in Tadashi reference).

As to claim 22 Lee teaches an average signal level operation section for performing an operation to obtain an average signal level which is an average level of all the pixel signals (See Fig. 5, item 20, in description See Col. 5, Lines 4-6); an input signal - output brightness property setting section for setting an input signal - output brightness property which represents variations in brightness of a pixel with respect to a level of the pixel signal in accordance with the average signal level (See Fig. 5, item 30, in description See Col. 5, Lines 6-11); and a signal compensation section for performing compensation of a picture signal so as to satisfy the input signal - output brightness property thus set (See Fig. 5, items 15,20,30, in description See Col. 5, Lines 1-11).

Lee does not show an image display apparatus includes a display section having plurality of pixels for displaying an image and receives a picture signal including a pixel signal representing information of each pixel.

Tadashi teaches an image display apparatus includes a display section having plurality of pixels for displaying an image and receives a picture signal including a pixel signal representing information of each pixel (See Drawing 1, items R,G and B, in Detailed Description See page 1, paragraph 0001). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in the

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time of invention to use Tadashi approach in the Lee method in order to improve the contrast of a display picture on a liquid crystal display device by implementing white level expansion and black level expansion corresponding respectively to a high APL and a low APL (See PURPOSE in Tadashi reference).

As to claim 42, Lee teaches an average signal level operation section for performing an operation to obtain an average signal level which is an average level of all the pixel signals (See Fig. 5, item 20, in description See Col. 5, Lines 4-6); an input signal - output brightness property setting section for setting an input signal - output brightness property which represents variations in brightness of a pixel with respect to a level of the pixel signal in accordance with the average signal level (See Fig. 5, item 30, in description See Col. 5, Lines 6-11); and a signal compensation section for performing compensation of a picture signal so as to satisfy the input signal - output brightness property thus set (See Fig. 5, items 15,20,30, in description See Col. 5, Lines 1-11).

Lee does not show a picture signal compensation device receives a picture signal including a pixel signal representing information of each pixel, and performs compensation of the picture signal so as to output the pictures signal subject to compensation to a display apparatus having a plurality of pixels.

Tadashi teaches a picture signal compensation device receives a picture signal including a pixel signal representing information of each pixel, and performs compensation of the picture signal so as to output the pictures signal subject to compensation to a display apparatus having a plurality of pixels (See Drawing 1, items R,G and B, in Detailed Description See page 1, paragraph 0001). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in the

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time of invention to use Tadashi approach in the Lee method in order to improve the contrast of a display picture on a liquid crystal display device by implementing white level expansion and black level expansion corresponding respectively to a high APL and a low APL (See PURPOSE in Tadashi reference).

As to claim 57, Lee teaches an average signal level operation section for performing an operation to obtain an average signal level is an average level of all the pixel signals (See Fig. 5, item 20, in description See Col. 5, Lines 4-6).

Lee does not show a picture signal compensation device receives a picture signal including a pixel signal representing information of each pixel, and performs compensation of the picture signal so as to output the pictures signal subject to compensation to a display apparatus having a plurality of pixels and a maximum output brightness adjustment section for performing compensation of the picture signal so that maximum output brightness of a pixel of the display apparatus varies in accordance with the average signal level.

Tadashi teaches a picture signal compensation device receives a picture signal including a pixel signal representing information of each pixel, and performs compensation of the picture signal so as to output the pictures signal subject to compensation to a display apparatus having a plurality of pixels (See Drawing 1, items R,G and B, in Detailed Description See page 1, paragraph 0001) and a maximum output brightness adjustment section for performing compensation of the picture signal so that maximum output brightness of a pixel of the display apparatus varies in accordance with the average signal level (See Drawings 1-2, items 40,42, in Detailed description See from page 3, paragraph 0016 to page 4, paragraph 0021). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in the time of invention to use

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Tadashi approach in the Lee method in order to improve the contrast of a display picture on a liquid crystal display device by implementing white level expansion and black level expansion corresponding respectively to a high APL and a low APL (See PURPOSE in Tadashi reference).

As to claims 2,23,43 Lee teaches an image is reproduced so that an exponential value in which the input signal - output brightness property is approximately represented by an exponential function becomes larger as the average signal level increases (See Fig. 3-4, item y1, in description See Col. 3, Lines 30-31 and Col.4, Lines 4-9).

As to claims 3,24,44,59 Lee teaches when the pixel signal includes a brightness signal representing brightness information of each pixel, the average signal level is obtained by performing an operation to obtain an average level of all the brightness signals (See Fig. 5, item 20, in description See Col. 5, lines 4-6).

As to claims 4,45 Lee teaches in order to reproduce the image based on the picture signal including a brightness signal subject to compensation, the input signal - output brightness property which represents variations in brightness of a pixel with respect to the level of the brightness signal is set in accordance with the average signal level, and compensation is performed on the brightness signal so as to satisfy the input signal - output brightness property thus set (See Fig. 3-5, items y1,y2, in description See Col. 3, Lines 36-57).

As to claim 5, Lee teaches the image is reproduced by performing compensation on the picture signal so as to satisfy the input signal -output brightness property that is set, and outputting the picture signal subject to compensation to the display apparatus (See Fig. 3-5, items y1,y2, in description See Col. 3, Lines 36-57).

As to claims 6,25,47 Lee teaches the input signal - output brightness property is set by performing an operation to obtain an exponential value in which the input signal - output bright property is approximately represented by an exponential function, and compensation for the picture signal is made by performing compensation of the picture signal according to an input signal - output brightness property corresponding to the input signal - output brightness property that is set, thereafter compensating for deviation from a linear property of the input signal -output brightness property of the display apparatus (See Fig. 3-5, items y1,y2, in description See Col. 3, Lines 36-57).

As to claims 9,30,37,50,61 Tadashi teaches a color video signal including color component signals of three primary colors (See Drawing 1, items R, G and B).

As to claims 11,32,52,58 Tadashi teaches a color video signal including color component signals of three primary colors (See Drawings 1-2, items 12,14,16,30,32,34,40,44, in Detail Description See from page 3, paragraph 0016 to page 4, paragraph 0021).

As to claims 14,35,55 Tadashi teaches the image is reproduced so that an exponential value in which the input signal-output brightness property is approximately represented by an exponential function becomes larger as average signal level increases (See Drawing 2b), and the maxim output brightness becomes smaller as the average signal level increases (See Drawing 2d).

As to claims 15,56 Tadashi teaches a brightness signal which represents brightness information of each pixel (See Drawing 1, item 40, in Detailed Description See page 2, paragraph 0009).



As to claims 26,46 Lee teaches a delay section for delaying output of the pixel signal of the inputted picture signal to the signal compensation section by time required to perform the operation for the average signal level and to set the input signal-output brightness property (See Fig5, item 15, in description See Col. 5, Lines 42-49).

As to claims 27-28,48 Tadashi teaches the input signal output brightness property setting section sets the input signal-output brightness property by performing an operation to obtain an exponential value in which the input signal-output brightness property is approximately represented by an exponential function, in accordance with the average signal level (See Drawing 4, in Detailed Description See Page 1, paragraph 0002), and the signal compensation section includes a first signal compensation for performing compensation of the pixel signal according to an input signal-output brightness property corresponds to the input signal-output brightness property that is set, by an operation adopting the exponential value (See Drawings 1, 2, item 32), and a second signal compensation section for performing compensation for deviation from a linear property of the input signal-output brightness property of the display section (See Drawings 1,3, item 34), the second signal compensation section converts the pixel signal by an inverse function of a function representing the input signal-output brightness property of the display section (See Drawing 3, in Detailed Description See from page 3, paragraph 0016 to page 4, paragraph 0021).

As to claims 31,51 Tadashi teaches a maximum output brightness adjustment section for adjusting maximum output brightness of a pixel of the display section in accordance with the average signal level (See Drawings 1-3, items 12,14,16,30,32,34,40,44, in Detail Description See from page 3, paragraph 0016 to page 4, paragraph 0021).

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2. Claims 16,18, 20, 38,40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosoi et al. in view of Tadashi.

As to claim 16, 38, Hosoi et al. teaches an image reproducing method for reproducing an image by a display apparatus having a plurality of pixels based on a picture signal including a pixel signal representing information of each pixel, wherein: an image is reproduced so that, after performing an operation to obtain an average signal level which is an average level of all the pixel signals, maximum output brightness of a pixel of the display apparatus varies in accordance with the average signal level (See Fig. 1-3, items 101-112, in description See Col.1, Lines 49-53 and Col. 7, Lines 47-68).

Hosoi et al. does not show the maximum output brightness becomes smaller as the average signal level increases.

Tadashi teaches the maximum output brightness becomes smaller as the average signal level increases (See Drawings 1-2, items 12,14,16,30,32,34,40,44, in Detail Description See from page 3, paragraph 0016 to page 4, paragraph 0021). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in the time of invention to use Tadashi approach in the Lee method in order to improve the contrast of a display picture on a liquid crystal display device by implementing white level expansion corresponding respectively to a high APL (See PURPOSE in Tadashi reference).

As to claim 18, 40 Hosoi et al. teaches the pixel signal includes a brightness signal representing brightness information of each pixel, the operation for the average signal level is

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made by performing an operation to obtain an average level of all the brightness signals (See Fig. 1, items 101-103,105, in description See Col. 7, Lines 48-68).

As to claim 20, Tadashi teaches a color video signal including color component signals of three primary colors (See Drawing 1, items R, G and B).

3. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee and Tadashi as aforementioned in claim 6 in view of Eglit (US Parent No. 5,734,362).

Lee and Tadashi do not show the compensation for deviation from the linear property of the input signal - output brightness property of the display apparatus is performed by converting the pixel signal by an inverse function of a function represents the input signal - output brightness property of the display apparatus.

Eglit teaches the compensation for deviation from the linear property of the input signal - output brightness property of the display apparatus is performed by converting the pixel signal by an inverse function of a function which represents the input signal - output brightness property of the display apparatus (See Fig. 1A-1C, in description See Col. 1, Lines 46-52). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in the time of invention to use Eglit approach in the Lee and Tadashi method in order implement exponential gamma removal (See Col. 1, line 60 of the Eglit reference).

4. Claims 8,36 and 29,49,60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee , Tadashi in view of Uehara et al. (US Patent No. 6,289,162 B1).

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Lee, Tadashi do not show a brightness signal represents brightness information of each pixel and chromaticity signal represents chromaticity information of each signal.

Uehara et al. teaches the luminance level and chromaticity level in image signal (See from Col. 3, Line 67 to Col. 3, Line 4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in the time of invention to use Uehara et al. approach in the Lee, Tadashi method to employ a brightness signal which represents brightness information of each pixel and chromaticity signal which represents chromaticity information of each signal in order to improve the contrast of a display picture on a liquid crystal display device by implementing white level expansion and black level expansion corresponding respectively to a high APL and a low APL (See PURPOSE in Tadashi reference).

5. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosoi et al. and Tadashi as aforementioned in claim 16 in view of Uehara et al. (US Patent No. 6,289,162 B1).

Tadashi and Hosoi et al. do not show a brightness signal represents brightness information of each pixel and chromaticity signal which represents chromaticity information of each signal.

Uehara et al. teaches the luminance level and chromaticity level in image signal (See from Col. 3, Line 67 to Col. 3, Line 4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in the time of invention to use Uehara et al. approach in the Tadashi and Hosoi et al. method to employ a brightness signal which represents brightness information of each pixel and chromaticity signal which represents chromaticity information of each signal in order to improve the contrast of a display picture on a liquid crystal display device by implementing white level

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expansion and black level expansion corresponding respectively to a high APL and a low APL (See PURPOSE in Tadashi reference).

6. Claims 13,34,54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee and Tadashi as aforementioned in claims 12,33 in view of Hosoi et al. (US Patent No. 6,278,436 B1).

Lee and Tadashi do not show an emission type optical switching element in which emission element function as an optical switching element as well.

Hosoi et al. teaches the plasma display panel which is an emission type optical switching element in which emission element function as an optical switching element as well (See Col. 1, Lines 13-19). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in the time of invention to use Hosoi et al. approach in the Lee and Tadashi method to employ a an emission type optical switching element in order to improve the contrast of a display picture on a liquid crystal display device by implementing white level expansion and black level expansion corresponding respectively to a high APL and a low APL (See PURPOSE in Tadashi reference).

7. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee , Tadashi as aforementioned in claim 16 in view of Yamazaki et al (US Patent No. 6,399,960 B1).

Lee, Tadashi do not show a display apparatus having an emission element and non-emission type optical switching element.

Yamazaki et al. teaches the active matrix-type flat panel displays with EL units (See Col. 23, lines 50-53). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in the time of invention to use Yamazaki et al. approach in the Lee, Tadashi method in order to improve the

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contrast of a display picture on a liquid crystal display device by implementing white level expansion corresponding respectively to a high APL (See PURPOSE in Tadashi reference).

8. Claim 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tadashi and Hosoi et al. as aforementioned in claims 38 in view of Yamazaki et al.

Tadashi and Hosoi et al. do not show a display apparatus having an emission element and non-emission type optical switching element.

Yamazaki et al. teaches the active matrix-type flat panel displays with EL units (See Col. 23, lines 50-53). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in the time of invention to use Yamazaki et al. approach in the Tadashi and Hosoi et al. method in order to improve the contrast of a display picture on a liquid crystal display device by implementing white level expansion corresponding respectively to a high APL (See PURPOSE in Tadashi reference).

#### ***Response to Amendment***

9. Applicant's arguments filed on 05-19-03 with respect to claims 1-9, 11-16, 18-38, 40-61 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

#### ***Telephone inquire***

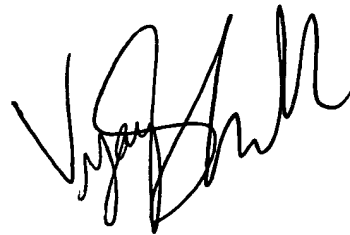
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leonid Shapiro whose telephone number is 703-305-5661. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 a.m. to 5 p.m..

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on 703-305-4938. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4750.

ls  
June 9, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vijay Shankar', with a stylized, cursive script.

**VIJAY SHANKAR  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**